proposal to expand the existing telephone exchanges in Palakkad district of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) i) Out of total 62 existing telephone exchanges in Palakkad (Palghat) District of Kerala, expension of 57 telephone exchanges have been planned, during current plan period.

(ii) The remaining 5 telephone exchanges have been expanded recently.

Construction of Building for Post Offices

6892. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of post offices are functioning in small houses in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to construct building for such post offices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) A large number of post offices are functioning in private rented premises, some of which are in small houses.

(b) No, Sir. The department does not propose to construct buildings for post offices solely on the ground that they are functioning in small houses.

(c) Does not arise.

Speed Post Services in Karnataka

6893. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the cities in Karnataka where Speed Post service facilities is available as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Speed Post Service is available in following cities in Karnataka:

1. Under National Net Work: Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore.

2. Under point to point to service: Hubli, Belgaum, Manipal, Dharwad and Ranebennur.

Telephone Facility in Post Offices of Karnataka

6894. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in Belgaum, Dharwad and Bijapur districts of Karnataka where telephone facility is not available at present; and

(b) the time by which telephone facility is likely to be provided in all the above post offices of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The number of Post Offices in these districts where telephone facility is not available at present is as follows:-